

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for establishing network services within a network
 2 having a plurality of service components, comprising:
 3 providing a plurality of interface modules to establish communications
 4 with one of the plurality of service components;
 5 providing one logical access point to the plurality of interface modules
 6 to facilitate invocation of one of the plurality of service components;
 7 receiving service component related parameters; and
 8 selecting one of the plurality of service components in response to the
 9 invocation, wherein the service component related parameters provides dynamic
 10 selection optimization of the one of the plurality of service components.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of interface
 2 modules comprises providing a plurality of software objects accessible by
 3 messages received from the one logical access point.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving service component
 2 related parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters
 3 via the one logical access point.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving service component
 2 related parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters
 3 via an external connection.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein selecting one of the plurality of
 2 service components comprises using the service component related parameters to
 3 reduce an initial number of potentially compatible service components.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein selecting one of the plurality of
2 service components further comprises using the service component related
3 parameters to initiate a business agreement with the one of the plurality of service
4 components.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of interface
2 modules comprises providing a plurality of network address translation proxies
3 accessible by messages received from the one logical access point.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein receiving service component
2 related parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters
3 via the one logical access point.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving service component
2 related parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters
3 via an external connection.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein selecting one of the plurality of
2 service components comprises using the service component related parameters to
3 reduce an initial number of potentially compatible service components.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein selecting one of the plurality
2 of service components further comprises using the service component related
3 parameters to initiate a business agreement with the one of the plurality of service
4 components.

1 12. A system for facilitating network services in response to a
2 service request and associated service request parameters, comprising:
3 a plurality of service components distributed within at least one
4 network; and
5 an interface module having a plurality of interface objects to establish
6 communications with one of the plurality of service components, the interface
7 module including:
8 a lookup object in communication with the plurality of interface
9 objects to establish connection parameters required between the one of the plurality
10 of service components and one of the plurality of interface objects;
11 a data object in communication with the lookup object to
12 provide parameters identifying attributes associated with the plurality of service
13 components; and
14 a single logical access point to allow external access to the
15 plurality of interface objects.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of interface
2 objects includes software objects accessible by messages received from the single
3 logical access point.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the lookup object comprises a
2 matchmaking function to promote business agreements with the one of the plurality
3 of service components in response to the associated service request parameters.

1 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the lookup object comprises a
2 decision function to receive the associated service request parameters and to
3 provide the required connection parameters in response to the associated service
4 request parameters.

1 16. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of interface
2 objects includes a plurality of network address translation proxies accessible by
3 messages received from the single logical access point.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the lookup object comprises a
2 matchmaking function to promote business agreements with the one of the plurality
3 of service components in response to the associated service request parameters.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the lookup object comprises a
2 decision function to receive the associated service request parameters and to
3 provide the required connection parameters in response to the associated service
4 request parameters.

1 19. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
2 instructions for establishing network services within a network having a plurality of
3 service components, the computer-executable instructions performing steps
4 comprising:

5 providing a plurality of interface modules to establish communications
6 with one of the plurality of service components, wherein one logical access point to
7 the plurality of interface modules allows external invocation of one of the plurality of
8 service components;

9 optionally receiving service component related parameters; and

10 selecting one of the plurality of service components in response to the
11 invocation, wherein the service component related parameters provides dynamic
12 selection optimization of the one of the plurality of service components.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of providing a plurality of interface modules
3 comprises providing a plurality of software objects accessible by messages
4 received from the one logical access point.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of receiving service component related
3 parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters via the
4 one logical access point.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of receiving service component related
3 parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters via an
4 external connection.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of selecting one of the plurality of service
3 components comprises using the service component related parameters to reduce
4 an initial number of potentially compatible service components.

1 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of selecting one of the plurality of service
3 components further comprises using the service component related parameters to
4 initiate a business agreement with the one of the plurality of service components.

1 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of providing a plurality of interface modules
3 comprises providing a plurality of network address translation proxies accessible by
4 messages received from the one logical access point.

1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of receiving service component related
3 parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters via the
4 one logical access point.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of receiving service component related
3 parameters comprises receiving the service component related parameters via an
4 external connection.

1 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of selecting one of the plurality of service
3 components comprises using the service component related parameters to reduce
4 an initial number of potentially compatible service components.

1 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the
2 computer-executable instruction step of selecting one of the plurality of service
3 components further comprises using the service component related parameters to
4 initiate a business agreement with the one of the plurality of service components.